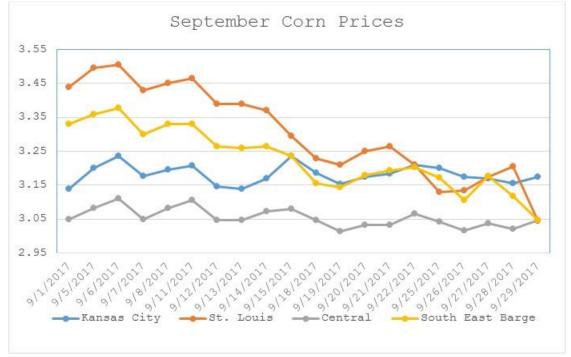
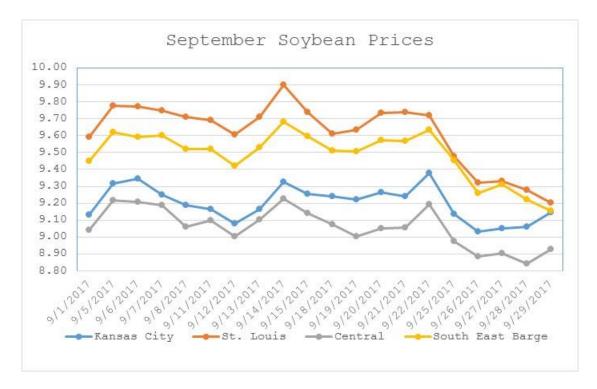
Cooler weather from August trailed into the first part of September, but ended up warming up midway through the month. The drier weather and hotter temperatures helped dry out crops as most producers either had combines and grain carts in their fields or were on their way. When corn moisture hit midteens, there was no delay to get into the field, especially if dryers were on hand to help the incoming yields dry out even quicker. The grain stocks report for September was released Friday, September 29. Old crop corn stocks are up 32 percent than last year at this time. Soybean stocks are up 53 percent than last year. Wheat stocks are down 11 percent. While futures closed higher on Friday, there were several elevators around the state that took more than a few points off of their basis. The grain trends on Friday were uneven.



Corn prices have continued the downward trend we started seeing as we headed into fall. Producers still have some of their 2016 corn in storage and were needing to make room for the incoming harvest. There was a basis change to December corn future contracts, as the September contracts disappeared mid-September. Generally, those are the basis that will continue through the rest of harvest.

The crop progress report for week ending October 1, stated that 89 percent of Missouri's corn is mature, with 44 percent has been harvested. Maturity and harvest is slightly behind where we were a year ago, 8 points and 9 points less than 2016, respectively. Corn condition was rated at 26 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

The WASDE report stated that the estimates for corn production increased to 14.184 bushels, an increase of 32 million from August. It also stated that since the corn crop is projected to be higher than last year, more will go towards feed since prices are expected to be lower. As the graph shows, the higher expected corn yields that were released September 12, 2017, no doubt attributed to the continued downward price trend for corn.

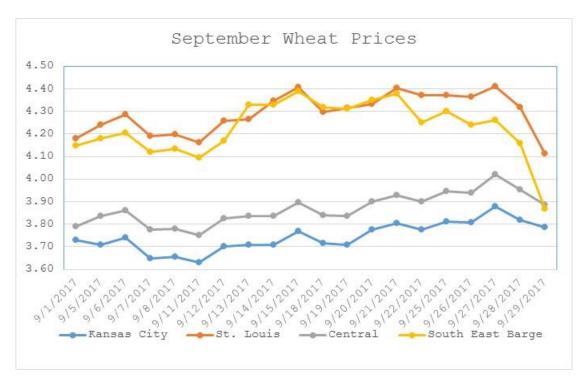


There was a somewhat rally on Friday, September 22, when nearby future contracts closed higher in the double digits. However, it was short lived as the adjustment on Monday, September 25, left with futures losing pretty much all they had gained. This was quite apparent in the cash market, as well.

According to the September WASDE report, soybean production is expected to be 50 million higher at 4,431 million bushels. Mid-September the dead cat bounced, giving some life support to cash prices. Dry weather conditions had set in and people began to question the ability of soybean yields to be higher than last year. Soybean pods were lighter than last year at this time and with the dryer weather, there was some doubt whether the pods would mature to larger pods.

According to the Missouri Crop Progress report for the week ending October 1, 85 percent of soybeans are turning color, 54 percent have started dropping leaves, and 13 percent have been harvested. These numbers are mostly on track where soybean harvest was last year.

The Midwest Farm Tour was in full swing by the beginning of September. There was a mention that weeds were a large problem this year. Water hemp, giant, and common ragweed were prevalent in many soybean fields. However, if the producer was able to hold any weeds off, the whole field was more or less resistant. They did not find any middle ground. There was also a mention of a lack of outstanding corn and bean crops.



The September WASDE report indicated that supply and demand estimates have not changed from August, but noted that the average price for wheat has decreased by 20 cents per bushel. There just is not much to report about wheat at this time of year. Most producers have sold their wheat to make room for their incoming corn and soon-to-be incoming soybeans.

There has been some winter wheat planted. As of week ending October 1, 10 percent of Missouri's winter wheat has been planted, with 3 percent emerged.

*Data for the graphs is from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily

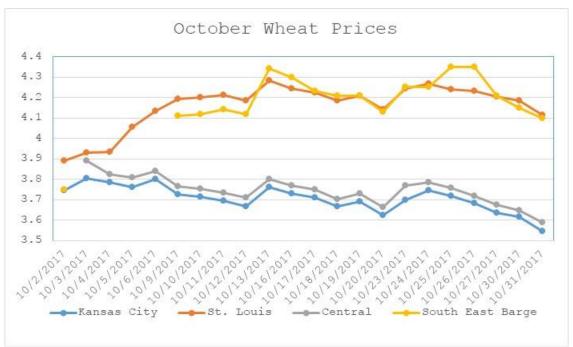
Fall weather has set in. Harvest around the state was delayed somewhat with the rain that came through at the beginning and at the end of October. The rain delays had some effects on the market, increasing bids somewhat on days where the rain stuck around. The Grain Stocks report was released September 29, which caused a basis change for commodities at most elevators. Old crop corn stocks as of September 1 was up 32 percent from last year at that time at 2.29 billion bushels. Old crop soybeans were up 53 percent from September 1, 2016, at 301 million bushels. Wheat stored in all positions was down 11 percent from last year at 2.25 billion bushels. One thing of note is the slow harvest pace in the US this year. As of October 30, 54 percent of the corn has been harvested in the 18 states that accounted for the majority of corn crop for 2016. That is 19 percentage points behind last year at that time and 18 percentage points behind the five year average.



The Grain Stocks report for September showed that corn stored on farms and off-farm stocks was up 25 percent and 36 percent from last year, respectively. The WASDE report was released on October 12, which did not seem to affect cash prices much. Projected 2017/18 corn supplies in the United States are the second highest on record at 14.280 billion bushels. This is 96 million more than last month. A big corn crop has been projected for several months, though demand has more or less done a good job to keep up with production. However, there are ample supplies and it has weighed on the market, keeping corn cheap. Farmers are not selling as much corn due to harvest activity, as well as weak basis levels. In Missouri, as of October 30, 80 percent of the corn crop has been harvest compared to 91 percent last year and 87 percent for the five year average.



The Grain Stocks report showed soybeans stored on farms and off-farm stocks up 112 percent and up 38 percent from September last year, respectively. The WASDE report released October 12 indicated that projected soybean production did not change much from last month's report, however harvested area is projected at 89.5 million acres, which is up 0.8 million and if realized, will be a record. The forecasted yield is slightly lower at 49.5 bushels. "With lower beginning stocks, soybean supplies for 2017/18 are projected down 44 million bushels." Missouri soybean harvest is only one point behind the five year average, sitting at 63 percent harvested for 2017. Yet, that is still lagging the 71 percent last year at that time.



*Missing data due to elevators in that area not receiving wheat at that time

Only about half of the reported elevators around the state are giving a wheat bid at this time and some of those bids are only for stored wheat. Anyone that had any wheat most likely has already sold any wheat that they had decided to store. According to the WASDE report released on October 12, projected 2017/18 wheat supplies are slightly lower than last month. The small grains report released by NASS mentioned that all wheat production in 2017 was down 25 percent from 2016 at 1.74 billion bushels. Missouri has 55 percent of its winter wheat planted, as of October 30, with 35 percent emerged. That is behind last year and the five year average, but that makes sense, as farmers are still trying to get their other crops out of their fields first.

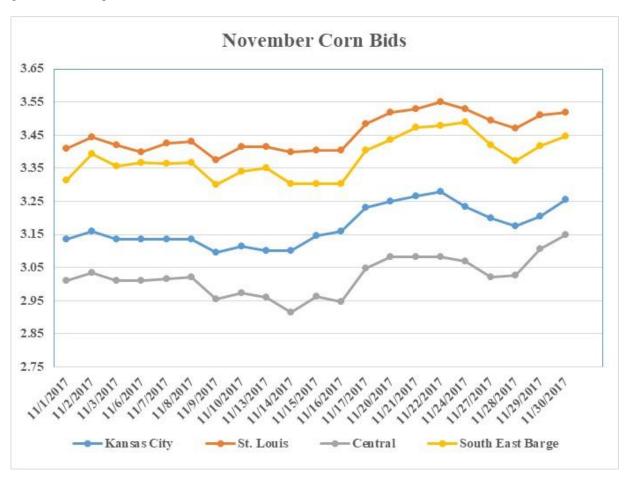
^{*}Data for the graphs is from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily

Monthly Grain Crop Review

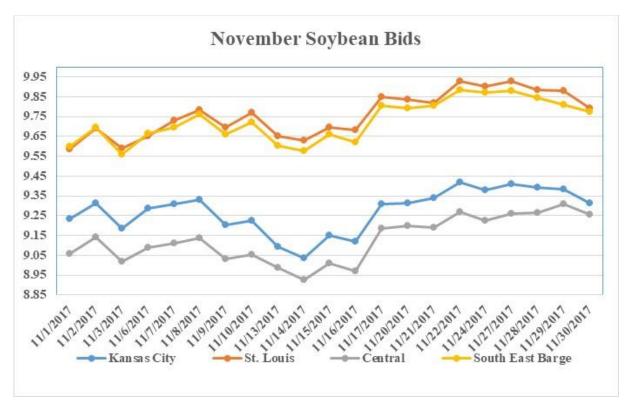
November 2017

Jefferson City, MO Mon Dec 04, 2017 MO Dept of Ag/USDA Market News

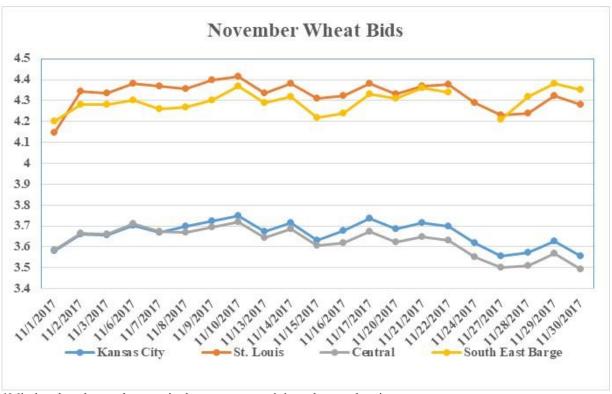
November corn bids in Missouri began the month trending sideways and kept around the same line. There is a surplus of corn supplies and the overall trend shows that by not really having a definite upward or downward trend for the month. There were not many spikes of life throughout November. After the record harvest that we had for corn, it is somewhat surprising that bids have not followed the seasonal downward trend. As the I-80 Harvest tour finished up, there were several that noted they had a good crop, but in some places last year was better. One of the biggest challenges farmers faced this year were the commodity prices. Many are at breakeven, if not below cost of being in business. USDA's November report stated corn yield average would hit 175.4 bushel per acre, which is a new record. Overall, production forecast increased 298 million bushels, compared to last month. Demand has kept up with the increased production, increased by 75 million bushels from exports, feed and residual markets. November projected ending stocks are 147 million bushels more than October. Another thing of note is the drought that was in the Dakotas and other parts of the Midwest. Had weather conditions been better in those areas, corn harvest most likely would have been much larger. There was an increase in bids on the 17th, but market specialists were unsure if it was stimulated by commercial buying or the drier forecast in South America. There were also strong gains in other commodities such as gold trading up \$15.80. Corn harvest was slowed up a couple of times, but as November faded, producers were able to get their corn crop out of the field.



January soybean futures contracts hit a five week low on the 14th then did a 180 on the 17th along with corn, closing with double digit gains. The sudden gain may have been due to the uncertainty of how South America's crop harvest will be. As of week ending November 26, 95 percent of Missouri soybeans had been harvested. Harvest seemed to drag along this year after being delayed a few times due to weather. The USDA's WASDE November report decreased their soybean production forecast by 5 million, due to a lower soybean yield.



As you can see from the graph, there was little activity with wheat bids. There are not very many elevators taking wheat since most unloaded their wheat already. Some elevators are giving a new crop bid already for next spring. As of week ending November 26, 96 percent of Missouri's winter wheat had been planted and 83 percent have emerged, which is about where we were a year ago. The majority of the winter wheat crop is in fair or good condition. Along with corn, wheat supplies are plentiful. USDA will release the estimated planted acres in January, so we will have to see how much will be potentially added to the already high supplies.



^{*}Missing data due to elevators in that area not receiving wheat at that time

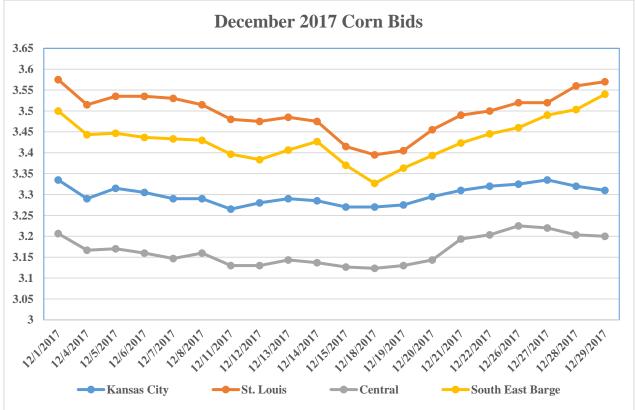
*Data for the graphs is from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily

Monthly Grain Crop Review

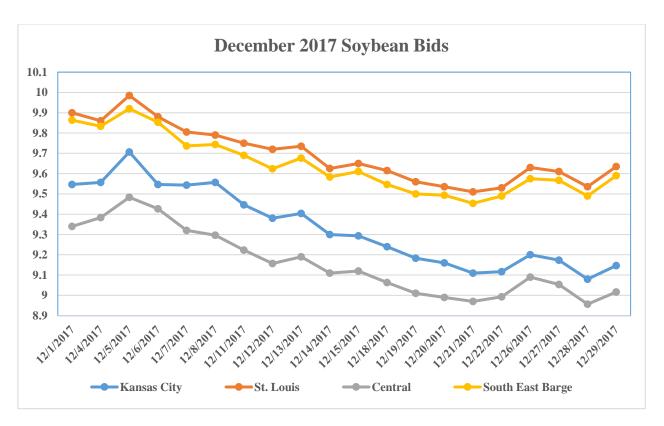
December 2017

Jefferson City, MO Wed Jan 03, 2018 MO Dept of Ag/USDA Market News

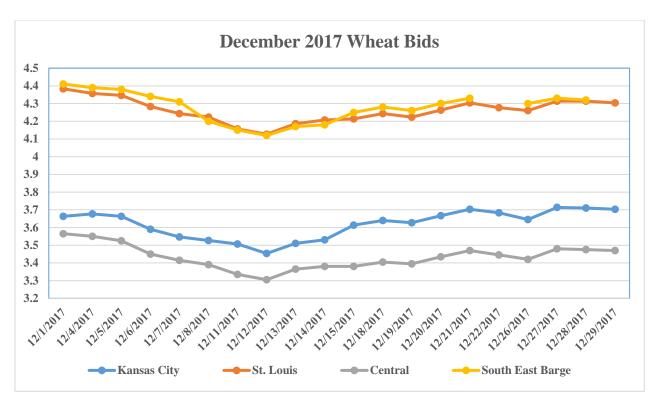
Missouri closed out 2017 with bitter low temperatures and wind chills in the negatives. Any changes towards the end of December were mostly due to the volatility associated with low trade volume. While markets were trading the last week of the year, several elevators took a couple of days off to celebrate the holidays. Weather in South America effected how commodities were trading, since their anticipated yields are still unknown. Any change in weather moves the line up or down, depending on received precipitation. As a whole, the WASDE released on December 12 did not have too much of an impact on local markets. Missouri continued with mostly dry weather, with some places getting snow. However, it did not stick around too long and grain transport could have carried on, if bids weren't so disappointing. At one point, all of Missouri was incorporated in the drought map with most counties either included in abnormally dry, moderate drought, or severe drought, and a few in extreme drought. After snow was received during late December, while most of Missouri is still in a drought, there was a small area towards the boot heel that was able to get enough precipitation to not be included in the map.



While corn markets saw some ups and downs throughout the month, most traded sideways and bids at the end of the month were not far off from where they started at the beginning of December. Corn tried to regain footing at the beginning of the month after ethanol margins were stable and ethanol futures remained at the lower end of the range. The corn market was trading with varying news and kept getting closer to season lows. Record high 2018 US average yield was predicted along with slow export pace, however farmers are holding out on selling their stored corn, trying to hold out for improved domestic demand. Corn futures contracts were very near to record lows for the time of year. Compared to December 2016, Missouri corn cash bids are mostly steady. 2017 corn bids were only a couple of pennies off from where we ended last year. In the last year in the U.S., the trading range for cash corn was only twenty percent of the year's low, which is the smallest range since the early 1990s.



Soybeans trended downwards throughout December. In a general sense, soybeans were somewhat oversold and are in need of a rally. Before the slight spike on December 13, March soybean futures contracts had plunged more than 35 cents in five days. Traders were liquidating long positions in soybeans and soybean products. Resistance in futures markets trickled into cash market when futures closed lower at the prospect of rain in South America. While decreased crop conditions in other countries are easy to blame when markets get volatile, it is most likely that traders were trying to cover all positions around the holidays, as there was little volume and more days off than usual. Weakness in soybean meal filtered into the soybean market and pulled the market down a little lower as longs were taken out of the soybean market. Compared to December 2016, Missouri soybean cash bids are about fifty cents cheaper in 2017.



^{*}Missing data is due to elevators in that area not receiving wheat at that time.

The newest WASDE, released December 12, indicated world wheat supplies are ample and export paces are not likely to increase for 2018. Most grain elevators in Missouri have started the transition to quoting new crop wheat, as there is little wheat movement at this time.

^{*}Sets of data for the graphs are from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily. Only dates in which markets are trading are represented.

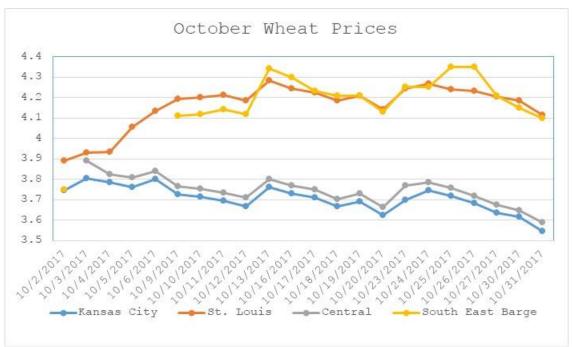
Fall weather has set in. Harvest around the state was delayed somewhat with the rain that came through at the beginning and at the end of October. The rain delays had some effects on the market, increasing bids somewhat on days where the rain stuck around. The Grain Stocks report was released September 29, which caused a basis change for commodities at most elevators. Old crop corn stocks as of September 1 was up 32 percent from last year at that time at 2.29 billion bushels. Old crop soybeans were up 53 percent from September 1, 2016, at 301 million bushels. Wheat stored in all positions was down 11 percent from last year at 2.25 billion bushels. One thing of note is the slow harvest pace in the US this year. As of October 30, 54 percent of the corn has been harvested in the 18 states that accounted for the majority of corn crop for 2016. That is 19 percentage points behind last year at that time and 18 percentage points behind the five year average.



The Grain Stocks report for September showed that corn stored on farms and off-farm stocks was up 25 percent and 36 percent from last year, respectively. The WASDE report was released on October 12, which did not seem to affect cash prices much. Projected 2017/18 corn supplies in the United States are the second highest on record at 14.280 billion bushels. This is 96 million more than last month. A big corn crop has been projected for several months, though demand has more or less done a good job to keep up with production. However, there are ample supplies and it has weighed on the market, keeping corn cheap. Farmers are not selling as much corn due to harvest activity, as well as weak basis levels. In Missouri, as of October 30, 80 percent of the corn crop has been harvest compared to 91 percent last year and 87 percent for the five year average.



The Grain Stocks report showed soybeans stored on farms and off-farm stocks up 112 percent and up 38 percent from September last year, respectively. The WASDE report released October 12 indicated that projected soybean production did not change much from last month's report, however harvested area is projected at 89.5 million acres, which is up 0.8 million and if realized, will be a record. The forecasted yield is slightly lower at 49.5 bushels. "With lower beginning stocks, soybean supplies for 2017/18 are projected down 44 million bushels." Missouri soybean harvest is only one point behind the five year average, sitting at 63 percent harvested for 2017. Yet, that is still lagging the 71 percent last year at that time.



*Missing data due to elevators in that area not receiving wheat at that time

Only about half of the reported elevators around the state are giving a wheat bid at this time and some of those bids are only for stored wheat. Anyone that had any wheat most likely has already sold any wheat that they had decided to store. According to the WASDE report released on October 12, projected 2017/18 wheat supplies are slightly lower than last month. The small grains report released by NASS mentioned that all wheat production in 2017 was down 25 percent from 2016 at 1.74 billion bushels. Missouri has 55 percent of its winter wheat planted, as of October 30, with 35 percent emerged. That is behind last year and the five year average, but that makes sense, as farmers are still trying to get their other crops out of their fields first.

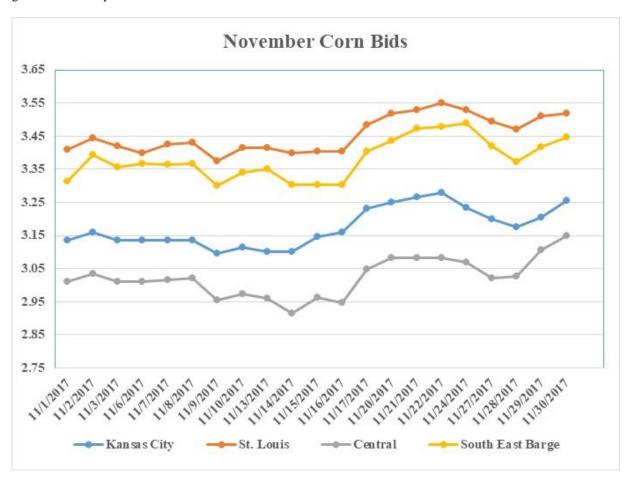
^{*}Data for the graphs is from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily

Monthly Grain Crop Review

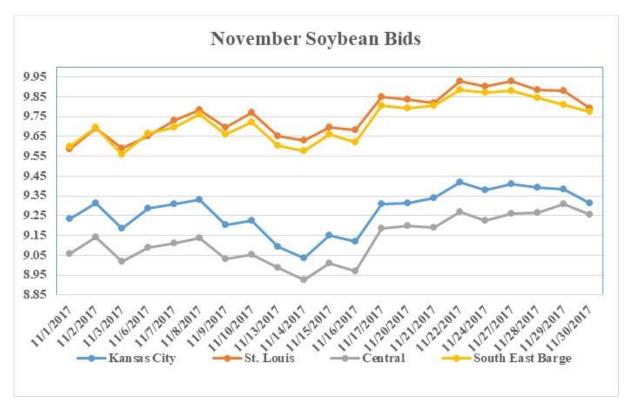
November 2017

Jefferson City, MO Mon Dec 04, 2017 MO Dept of Ag/USDA Market News

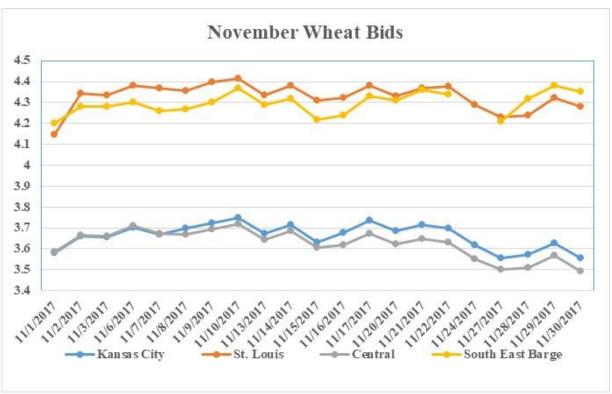
November corn bids in Missouri began the month trending sideways and kept around the same line. There is a surplus of corn supplies and the overall trend shows that by not really having a definite upward or downward trend for the month. There were not many spikes of life throughout November. After the record harvest that we had for corn, it is somewhat surprising that bids have not followed the seasonal downward trend. As the I-80 Harvest tour finished up, there were several that noted they had a good crop, but in some places last year was better. One of the biggest challenges farmers faced this year were the commodity prices. Many are at breakeven, if not below cost of being in business. USDA's November report stated corn yield average would hit 175.4 bushel per acre, which is a new record. Overall, production forecast increased 298 million bushels, compared to last month. Demand has kept up with the increased production, increased by 75 million bushels from exports, feed and residual markets. November projected ending stocks are 147 million bushels more than October. Another thing of note is the drought that was in the Dakotas and other parts of the Midwest. Had weather conditions been better in those areas, corn harvest most likely would have been much larger. There was an increase in bids on the 17th, but market specialists were unsure if it was stimulated by commercial buying or the drier forecast in South America. There were also strong gains in other commodities such as gold trading up \$15.80. Corn harvest was slowed up a couple of times, but as November faded, producers were able to get their corn crop out of the field.



January soybean futures contracts hit a five week low on the 14th then did a 180 on the 17th along with corn, closing with double digit gains. The sudden gain may have been due to the uncertainty of how South America's crop harvest will be. As of week ending November 26, 95 percent of Missouri soybeans had been harvested. Harvest seemed to drag along this year after being delayed a few times due to weather. The USDA's WASDE November report decreased their soybean production forecast by 5 million, due to a lower soybean yield.



As you can see from the graph, there was little activity with wheat bids. There are not very many elevators taking wheat since most unloaded their wheat already. Some elevators are giving a new crop bid already for next spring. As of week ending November 26, 96 percent of Missouri's winter wheat had been planted and 83 percent have emerged, which is about where we were a year ago. The majority of the winter wheat crop is in fair or good condition. Along with corn, wheat supplies are plentiful. USDA will release the estimated planted acres in January, so we will have to see how much will be potentially added to the already high supplies.



^{*}Missing data due to elevators in that area not receiving wheat at that time

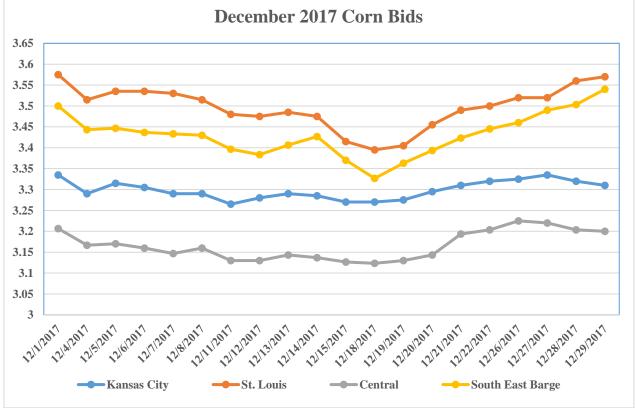
*Data for the graphs is from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily

Monthly Grain Crop Review

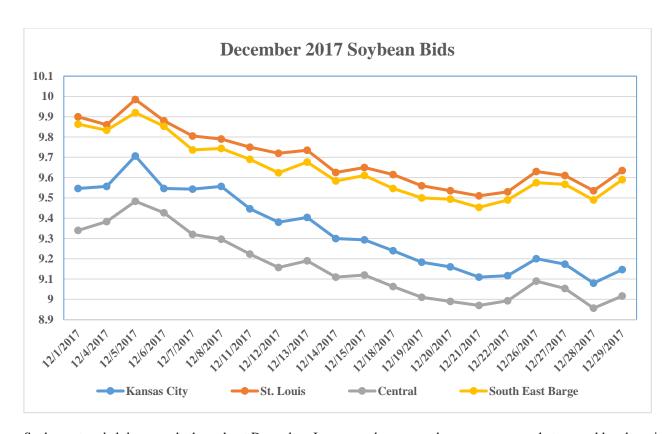
December 2017

Jefferson City, MO Wed Jan 03, 2018 MO Dept of Ag/USDA Market News

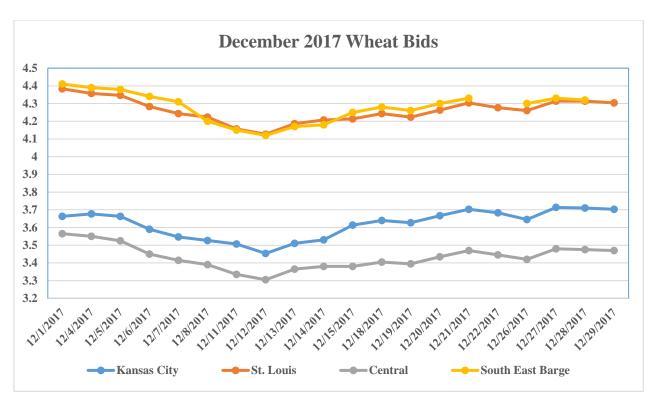
Missouri closed out 2017 with bitter low temperatures and wind chills in the negatives. Any changes towards the end of December were mostly due to the volatility associated with low trade volume. While markets were trading the last week of the year, several elevators took a couple of days off to celebrate the holidays. Weather in South America effected how commodities were trading, since their anticipated yields are still unknown. Any change in weather moves the line up or down, depending on received precipitation. As a whole, the WASDE released on December 12 did not have too much of an impact on local markets. Missouri continued with mostly dry weather, with some places getting snow. However, it did not stick around too long and grain transport could have carried on, if bids weren't so disappointing. At one point, all of Missouri was incorporated in the drought map with most counties either included in abnormally dry, moderate drought, or severe drought, and a few in extreme drought. After snow was received during late December, while most of Missouri is still in a drought, there was a small area towards the boot heel that was able to get enough precipitation to not be included in the map.



While corn markets saw some ups and downs throughout the month, most traded sideways and bids at the end of the month were not far off from where they started at the beginning of December. Corn tried to regain footing at the beginning of the month after ethanol margins were stable and ethanol futures remained at the lower end of the range. The corn market was trading with varying news and kept getting closer to season lows. Record high 2018 US average yield was predicted along with slow export pace, however farmers are holding out on selling their stored corn, trying to hold out for improved domestic demand. Corn futures contracts were very near to record lows for the time of year. Compared to December 2016, Missouri corn cash bids are mostly steady. 2017 corn bids were only a couple of pennies off from where we ended last year. In the last year in the U.S., the trading range for cash corn was only twenty percent of the year's low, which is the smallest range since the early 1990s.



Soybeans trended downwards throughout December. In a general sense, soybeans were somewhat oversold and are in need of a rally. Before the slight spike on December 13, March soybean futures contracts had plunged more than 35 cents in five days. Traders were liquidating long positions in soybeans and soybean products. Resistance in futures markets trickled into cash market when futures closed lower at the prospect of rain in South America. While decreased crop conditions in other countries are easy to blame when markets get volatile, it is most likely that traders were trying to cover all positions around the holidays, as there was little volume and more days off than usual. Weakness in soybean meal filtered into the soybean market and pulled the market down a little lower as longs were taken out of the soybean market. Compared to December 2016, Missouri soybean cash bids are about fifty cents cheaper in 2017.



^{*}Missing data is due to elevators in that area not receiving wheat at that time.

The newest WASDE, released December 12, indicated world wheat supplies are ample and export paces are not likely to increase for 2018. Most grain elevators in Missouri have started the transition to quoting new crop wheat, as there is little wheat movement at this time.

^{*}Sets of data for the graphs are from the Missouri Grain Cash Bids report that is published daily. Only dates in which markets are trading are represented.